



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Department of Toxic Substances Control to grant \$140,000 to Shasta/Cascade Hazardous Materials Response Team.

Sacramento--- The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control will award a grant of \$140,000 to Shasta County and the Shasta/Cascade Hazardous Materials Response Team at a dedication ceremony on January 14, 2000. The ceremony will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the CDF/Shasta Fire Station 58 on Homestake Road and Iron Mountain Road (off Highway 299 in Old Shasta).

The grant will be awarded under the authority of Senate Bill 274. The bill, sponsored by California State Senator Maurice Johannessen, was passed during the last legislative session and signed by Governor Gray Davis on October 5, 1999. Senator Maurice Johannessen will present the check to the Shasta County Fire Department.

The grant will be used to purchase specialized hazardous material emergency response equipment for the Shasta County Hazardous Materials Response Team (SCHMRT). When the SCHMRT team becomes operational, it will respond to hazardous materials emergencies in a six (6) county region, which includes Shasta, Tehama, Siskiyou, Trinity, Lassen, and Modoc counties. The SCHMRT team will use the equipment to stabilize and mitigate hazardous substances emergencies in the six county region.

Each county has trained personnel that will become part of the team when they respond outside of Shasta County. Personnel from each county are already training together in preparation for full operation, which is anticipated to occur in the Spring of 2000.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control previously funded a response vehicle to be used by the Shasta County Fire Department for the same purpose. The SCHMRT team will operate the vehicle and it will be used for transportation and a command post for hazardous materials incidents in the region.

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DTSC is one of the six boards and departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by regulating the management of hazardous waste and promoting reduction.